



The Hour

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NUMBER 17 NEWS-KEY October 28, 1939

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McWILLIAMS IN FIST FIGHT WITH HIS BUSINESS MANAGER

Christian Mobilizers Split Over Ku Klux Klan Issue -- Their
Picketing of Anti-Fascist Priest Forbidden by Mayor LaGuardia

The Hour learns of several fist fights which have taken place in the past few weeks among officers of the Christian Mobilizers, the notorious fascist organization with headquarters in New York. The first fight occurred between Bernard McGarry, business manager of the Christian Mobilizer (the group's weekly), and Joseph E. McWilliams, fuehrer of the organization. The fracas raged in the editorial offices of the sheet, 3096 Third Avenue, Bronx, N. Y. McGarry, a tall, well-muscled veteran of the World War, was getting the better of McWilliams when several of the latter's bodyguards rushed in. With considerable difficulty they succeeded in subduing the peppery ex-soldier. McGarry, however, is reported to have clouted McWilliams several times with stiff rights to the jaw and forehead. McGarry's resignation as business manager followed at once.

Ire Over McWilliams' Attendance at Klan Convention

The direct cause of the fisticuffs is given to us as the fact of McWilliams' attendance at the Ku Klux Klan convention on Labor Day in Atlanta, Georgia (see The Hour for September 30). McGarry, a loyal Catholic, would not forgive the past anti-Catholic record of the Klan. He claimed that McWilliams was behaving in a manner prejudicial to Catholics and was furthermore "using" the Irish-American members of the Mobilizers to further personal ambitions.

McGarry also pointed out that McWilliams is a member of the Supreme Nationalist Command. McWilliams has publicly admitted this association, and has declared that the Command includes such pro-Nazi fascists as Deatherage, Winrod and Pelley. All three are known to be prejudiced against American Catholics, and McGarry sees in this one more proof of McWilliams' willingness to cooperate with anti-Catholics.

Father Ward Reprints Item from The Hour -- Threatened by Mobilizers

Yet another development was the result of the Klan-McWilliams get-together. On October 8 the Rev. Paul B. Ward reprinted in Wisdom,

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a New York publication edited by him, the item from The Hour of September 30 revealing McWilliams' friendship with Ku Kluxers. A man describing himself as treasurer of the Christian Mobilizers telephoned Father Ward, demanding a retraction of the item under the threat of establishing a mass picket line around his church, the Roman Catholic Church of St. Paul the Apostle, Sixtieth Street and Ninth Avenue, and the Paulist Fathers' rectory at the same address. Father Ward notified the police of this threat, and in consequence Mayor LaGuardia instructed Police Commissioner Valentine to prohibit picketing of churches of any faith. The Mayor's communication, made public on October 19, stated in part: "A place of worship and rectory was threatened to be picketed for the reason that one of the clergymen entertained ideas different from those of an organization active at this time in propaganda. It should be understood that the picketing of worship is not permitted. There is nothing (in the statutes) which permits the picketing of God." Accordingly, the Christian Mobilizers were prevented from picketing Father Ward's quarters.

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WOMEN AND MONEY TO BE LINKED IN KUHN'S TRIAL

Fritz Kuhn's greatest fears in his trial, which opens in New York's General Sessions Court on November 9, do not come from any accounting evidence which Prosecutor Dewey may produce, but rather from nine-time married Georgia woman, Miss Virginia Cogswell, whose companionship with the Nazi Bund leader is now known in detail to the District Attorney's office.

Herr Kuhn and Miss Cogswell became acquainted several years ago, on a transport airplane flying from Washington to New York. Thereafter the two met frequently in a large midtown Manhattan hotel. Kuhn, however, did not know that for almost the entire duration of his friendship with Miss Cogswell, dictaphones functioned under the furniture of their room. Some 112 wax records of the pair's conversations are now in the hands of Dewey's staff. The records were originally paid for by a U. S. congressman from New York, whose interest in Kuhn's activities is of lengthy date.

Kuhn's lavish expenditures of the Bund's funds are alleged to have been made not on Miss Cogswell alone. There are two other women involved, one of whom, Mrs. Florence Camp, is named in the indictment. A stoutish bleached blonde from California, Mrs. Camp was entertained by Fritz in a truly expansive (and expensive) style. The third heart attachment which Kuhn dreads having exposed in court is the daughter of a Yorkville tavern owner.

Defense for Kuhn will contend that the Bund's leader could not possibly have stolen funds from his organization, inasmuch as the Bund convention, held on the week-end of last Fourth of July at Astoria, Long Island, gave him retroactive power of attorney. It will therefore claim that Kuhn cannot be accused of stealing from himself. Kuhn is expected to bring in Bundites, who were present at the July convention, to testify in his behalf, but the prosecution is said to be holding a trump card in the person of a Bundite, high in Kuhn's circles, who is believed to be ready to turn state's evidence against his chief.

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LINDBERGH'S IMPERIALISM SHARED BY U. S. FASCISTS

Aims of "White Front" Identical -- McWilliams Also
Favors Seizure of Canada and Latin American Lands

In his speech of October 13 Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, disputing the Canadians' right to participate in a European war "simply because they prefer the crown of England to American independence," came out openly for a new kind of U. S. imperialism in both Americas. He said: "This Western Hemisphere is our domain. . . . Sooner or later we must demand the freedom of this continent and its surrounding islands from the dictates of European power."

The Deadly Parallels

Before us is a small pamphlet entitled Racial Nationalism: Principles and Purposes, by William Blanchard, published in May, 1938, at Live Oak, Florida, by the White Front, a frankly fascist organization. On Page 21 of the fascist pamphlet we read: "The union of America and Canada will be the inevitable result of racial determinism, whether it assumes legal form in our century or the next. We Racial Nationalists must do everything within our power to speed the dawn of that mighty day." On Page 17 we read: "The battleflags which in our father's day were carried in a great sweep from Atlantic to Pacific must in our time stream from Alaska to Panama. It is inconceivable to a manly patriot to think of Central America stagnating for a century longer with American men, money and materials waiting throughout the land to create a magnificent civilization between the Rio Grande and Panama. Not only would the winning of such an empire contribute untold wealth and power to the nation but to the Amerindians of the central states it would bring incalculable benefits plus a sense of dignity and power as part of an invincible empire. To the embattled white stock of Central America it is the only light of hope."

The other aims, publicly avowed by Blanchard and his buddies, were: to segregate the Jews and scatter the Negroes; to wipe Russia off the map; and to collect fees, ranging from \$4 to \$12 a year, from white Gentiles who might want to become White Fronters. In application blanks to the White Front a man had to state what "military experience, motor vehicles and firearms" he possessed. The uniforms, in which a handful of White Fronters appeared on the streets and in taverns of Miami, resembled those of Hitler's storm-troopers. The men took part in a few barroom brawls and, upon being brought to court, drew sentences of fines.

Christian Mobilizers Also Hunger for an Empire

More recently, in September, 1939, Joseph E. McWilliams, head of the fascist Christian Mobilizers, and bosom friend of the Bund's Fritz Kuhn, was quoted as saying that his aim is to "start a drive now that England and France are in trouble" toward the seizure of any and

all of their possessions in both Americas, presumably by the United States. He also said that Canada would be his starting point.

In the course of the present month (October, 1939), when asked for his presidential preference for 1940, McWilliams replied: "Either General Moseley or Colonel Lindbergh."

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FASCIST GERALD SMITH ACTIVE IN DEARBORN ELECTIONS

One of the Chief Agents in Anti-Union Drive Aimed at Auto Workers

Our Detroit correspondent advises that Gerald L. K. Smith, the notorious fascist, was revealed this week as one of the chief agents in the new drive against progressives and trade union members. He is reported to have addressed the Knights of Dearborn, a fascist organization, which gathered in a secret meeting on Sunday, October 22, to hear Smith lash out furiously at organized labor. He made a vicious attack upon all candidates for city election endorsed by Labor's Non-Partisan League. Among other things, he is said to have urged that all union people be thrown into jail or deported from the country.

The secret meeting was presided over by Vern Doonan, a political boss who had been stationed in Buffalo, N. Y. until his presence was required in Dearborn, Michigan, where reactionaries began to fear that their auto-town candidates were slated for a beating. Our informant reports that all the reactionary candidates for council were present at the Knights' meeting, and that each received twenty-five tickets from Smith for a fascist rally to be held in Detroit's Olympia Hall.

The fascist chieftain Smith is also active in his attempts at penetrating the automobile plants, in accordance with the Nazi policy laid down some time ago in Berlin (see The Hour for May 30, June 30, July 30 and September 9). His concentration point is the Plymouth Motor Corporation, where former followers of Homer Martin are passing along Fascist Smith's petitions and are distributing his literature. At a meeting held recently in preparation for the Olympia fascist rally, members of the "goon squad" (strongarm men) of Martin's defunct outfit acted as guards, standing at the door and examining everyone who entered the hall. Whenever a union member was spotted, he was at once followed by a pair of these sluggers who sat behind or near him, watching the man throughout the entire meeting.

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REYNOLDS AND GOEBBELS: CURIOUS DISCREPANCY

The Hour notes that Senator Bob Reynolds of North Carolina has accused the Russians of sinking the Athenia. Of course, Dr. Joseph Goebbels of the Berlin propaganda ministry credited the sinking to the British. It seems to us that Reynolds should more closely check his tales with those of his mentor.

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DR. MAERZ IS COMING TO THE FOREFRONT AS CHICAGO'S FASCIST LEADER
Has Preached "Direct Action" and Tried Union of Fascist Forces

On October 24 the United Press reported from Chicago the arrest of Dr. Homer Herman Maerz, the 25-year old Nazi-fascist, and of two of his assistants, to be questioned about window-breaking and other acts of terrorism aimed at local Jewish business men. In this connection we refer our readers to The Hour of September 9, Page 4, where we described the activities of Dr. Maerz as the Chicago leader of the German-American National Alliance, a new spearhead of the Nazis in America attempting to unite all those Germans in this country who would not adhere to the discredited Bund. Since that date we have received an additional report from our Chicago correspondent, dealing with Herr Doctor's activities in early October.

According to this report, a meeting of the Silver Shirt Legion of America was held at the Mozart Hall, on Thursday, October 5, where the speakers were Dr. Homer H. Maerz, the Nazi leader William Wernecke, and their fellow-leaders Campbell and De Vries. They discussed the German-Russian pact (which they couldn't explain), attacked President Roosevelt, and indulged in their customary anti-Semitism. The honor of the main speech was given to Dr. Maerz who, since his days as head of the German-American National Alliance, has passed to broader work of uniting the Silver Shirts, the Coughlinites, and the Nazis on the basis of a Christian Front.

Of all the numerous speeches delivered by Dr. Maerz since the beginning of this year, the most significant one dates back to Sunday, March 26, when at a meeting held at 437 Rush Street he said that what Munich was to Germany, Chicago will prove to be to America; that this country will "yet be a living hell for the Jews," so that by comparison "Hitler will look like a cream-puff." On that occasion he declared: "Our organization is growing by leaps and bounds. We have succeeded in securing the aid of two big industrialists, and you will hear from us six months from now."

Disclaim Self-Evident Tie with Pelley

The fascists in Chicago try to disclaim any connection between Pelley's Silver Shirts and Dr. Maerz's Silver Shirt Legion. Hugo Eger, Silver Shirt leader, whose headquarters are at his home, 7511 Seward Avenue, denies that the Silver Shirt Legion of America in Chicago has ties with his organization. He admits that the Silver Shirts are doing a great deal of work in the city and that their meetings are well attended. He also confirms that their chief leader in this district is the infamous Roy Zachary, second in command to William Dudley Pelley.

The Shirts' activities consist mainly of sending petitions to congressmen about the war situation and peddling Pelley's anti-Semitic pamphlets from factory to factory and from restaurant to restaurant.

